

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 16, 18-24 and 26, and amend claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 33 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A switch device comprising a face plate and a single switch oscillator having a capacitive component, the capacitive component having a first capacitor plate arranged adjacent the face plate, the face plate preventing electrical contact between the user and the oscillator whereby an object placed adjacent the face plate acts as a second capacitor plate thereby altering ~~the~~ a frequency of the oscillator, control means being provided to sense the change in frequency and to actuate the switch in response to such a change,

wherein detection of the change in frequency of the switch oscillator is achieved within the control means by software, and

wherein the software is arranged to filter out noise and/or frequency drift.

2. (Currently Amended) A switch device according to claim 1 in which the face plate is made from electrically insulating material.

3. (Previously Presented) A switch device according to claim 1 in which the face plate is arranged so that it can be retrofit to existing switch mountings.

4-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A switch device ~~according to claim 4 in which~~ comprising a face plate and a single switch oscillator having a capacitive component, the capacitive component having a first capacitor plate arranged adjacent the face plate, the face plate preventing electrical contact between the user and the oscillator whereby an object placed adjacent the face plate acts as a second capacitor plate thereby altering a frequency of the oscillator, control means being provided to sense the change in frequency and to actuate the switch in response to such a change,

wherein the frequency from the oscillator is recalculated at fixed periods by the ~~micro~~ controller control means.

7. (Currently Amended) A switch device ~~according to claim 4 in which the software within the micro-controller~~ comprising a face plate and a single switch oscillator having a capacitive component, the capacitive component having a first capacitor plate arranged adjacent the face plate, the face plate preventing electrical contact between the user and the oscillator whereby an object placed adjacent the face plate acts as a second capacitor plate thereby altering a frequency of the oscillator, control means being provided to sense the change in frequency and to actuate the switch in response to such a change,

wherein software within the control means automatically detects ~~the~~ a frequency of ~~the~~ a mains supply to which it is connected, via an AC ~~Zero~~ zero detector circuit.

8. (Currently Amended) A switch device according to claim 7 in which the software alters ~~the~~ a firing signal to an AC trigger circuit based on the ~~mains~~ detected frequency ~~calculated~~ of the mains supply.

9-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A switch device according to claim 1 in which the switching device is used to switch a light circuit and in which software and/or hardware within the light circuit provides one or more of the following functions:

- a) gradual ramping up of current to the light to preserve bulb life,
- b) dimmer function
- c) random light switching
- d) timed light switching
- e) comfort light function
- f) gradual lighting up for use as an alarm.

14-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A switch according to claim 1 in which the switch is programmable by ~~the~~ a user.

34. (Original) A switch according to claim 33 in which the programming of the switch is effected by the user selecting a function from a list of functions and logging the selection on the switch.

35-38 (Canceled)